



NEWS RELEASE

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INS CHARGES WOMAN WITH HARBORING ILLEGAL ALIENS

Victims allegedly forced to work in massage parlors and spas

Los Angeles, California - Agents from the Los Angeles District Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) today arrested Ms. Conni Sheen in connection with the alleged harboring of six Korean women to work at massage parlors, spas and chiropractic offices.

Working cooperatively with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), INS agents discovered smuggled, undocumented Korean women held against their will at a residence located in the 500 block of South Wilton Place in the Koreatown neighborhood of Los Angeles. The women were allegedly ordered to pay off their \$15,000 - \$20,000 smuggling fees through prostitution and similar activities, and subject to beatings if their smuggling fees were not paid in full.

"The INS will not tolerate human smuggling," said Jane Arellano, Acting Director of the Los Angeles INS District. "Smugglers care only about money -- not the communities, families and lives they destroy."

INS agents also seized \$40,000 in cash at the premises, believed to be proceeds from criminal activity.

If convicted, the subject could face a fine or imprisonment and removal from the United States, in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Sections 1324 (a) (1) (A) (iii), knowingly and intentionally concealing, harboring, shielding illegal aliens in the United States.

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